

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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3 A material handling method (and corresponding apparatus) packages material
4 (such as loose-fill thermal insulation product) into elongate bags, and automatically
5 arranges the elongate bags into groups, wherein at least one group has a cross-stacked
6 configuration. The bag groups are automatically lifted and transported, group by group,
7 to form a multi-row stack of elongate bags whose bottom row is realized by a cross-
8 stacked group. The multi-row stack is transported to a customer. The elongate bags
9 preferably each have dimensions of about 38" by 21" by 8.5" and carry about 27 lbs. of
10 product. Preferably, a modified clamp truck is used to lift and transport the bag groups.
11 The clamp truck has two clamp members that translate relative to one another with one
12 clamp member having a central support bar integral thereto and laterally disposed
13 between said two clamp members. The central support bar fits into a slot in a conveyor
14 belt system to facilitate positioning the two clamps members around a cross-stacked bag
15 group supported by the conveyor belt system.